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Security Council

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Identical letters dated 9 March 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, and further to my letters of 2 January 2018 (S/2018/6), 5 January 2018 (S/2018/23) and 7 March 2018 (S/2018/207), I am writing to you to inform you of three incidents in which the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain violated the sovereignty of Qatar by air.

Incident 1. At 1530 hours on Sunday, 14 January 2018, a United Arab Emirates military transport aircraft (registration No. UAF 1211) was heading towards the emirate of Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. The aircraft was supposed to follow airway UP559. Instead, it followed another airway from the Ra's Tannurah area and, while over Qatari territorial waters, headed towards northern Qatar and in the direction of the United Arab Emirates at an altitude of 12,000 feet. The aircraft did so without prior authorization from the competent Qatari authorities (see the annexed chart of the aircraft's flight path).

The Bahrain air traffic control authorities were asked to move the aircraft away from Qatari airspace, because they are responsible for controlling air traffic in that area pursuant to the agreement concluded by Qatar and Bahrain within the framework of the International Civil Aviation Organization and had the right to instruct the aircraft to change its course. However, the Bahrain air traffic control authorities did not do so, although they were aware of a Notice to Airmen that prohibits any military aircraft from flying over Qatari territorial waters without the authorization of the competent authorities in Qatar.

Qatar deplores such conduct and holds the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain responsible for the above-mentioned violation and any legal effects arising therefrom. The United Arab Emirates, by its repeated violations of Qatari airspace, and Bahrain, thanks to the failure of its competent authorities to cooperate or respond, have set a grave precedent because they have failed to honour their commitments under international law and instruments that underpin State sovereignty. Qatar calls upon the above-mentioned States to comply with and respect international instruments.

Incident 2. At 1827 hours on Sunday, 25 February 2018, a United Arab Emirates C-130 military transport aircraft (transponder code 2151 (Mode 3)) took off from Sheikh Isa Airbase in Bahrain. The aircraft (registration No. UAF 1214) was heading to the emirate of Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, at an altitude of 21,000 feet and a speed of 340 knots. At 1854 hours, it was observed that the aircraft would enter Qatari airspace if it continued flying in the same direction. Radar control at

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Hamad International Airport was contacted and asked to tell the Bahrain airport to inform the aircraft's pilot that he must change course. At 1855 hours, when it reached the borders of Qatar some 51 miles from Doha at 236 degrees, communications were opened with the military aircraft via the VHF/UHF Guard system. The aircraft changed course and turned to the right, exiting Qatari airspace at precisely 1857 hours some 55 miles from Doha at 224 degrees (see the annexed chart of the aircraft's flight path and the violation).

Incident 3. At 1229 hours local time on Wednesday, 28 February 2018, a Bahraini military aircraft (transponder code 1211 (Mode 3)) entered the exclusive economic zone of Qatar some 63 miles from Doha at 324 degrees. The aircraft was flying at an altitude of 300 feet and a speed of 350 knots. Contact was made with the aircraft at 1229 hours via the VHF/UHF Guard system. An aircraft was ordered to take off immediately and warn the Bahraini aircraft, because it was flying over the exclusive economic zone of Qatar without prior diplomatic authorization from the competent Qatari authorities. At 1229 hours, the Bahraini aircraft left the exclusive economic zone some 85 miles from Doha at 314 degrees.

The United Arab Emirates and Bahrain continue to violate the airspace and sovereignty of Qatar. Their alarming conduct constitutes a flagrant violation of international law. Moreover, the above-mentioned States are continuing with their efforts to contrive incidents in order to heighten tensions in the region, without any consideration for the security and stability of Qatar. The Government of Qatar would like to draw the attention of the Security Council to Articles 34 and 35 of the Charter of the United Nations and calls upon the Organization to take the measures required under the Charter to maintain international peace and security, and put an end to the tendentious violations being committed by Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates.

In conclusion, Qatar would like to reaffirm that it is exercising the utmost self-restraint and striving assiduously to comply with the Charter of the United Nations and promote good-neighbourly relations. It condemns and rejects any violation of its sovereignty and territorial integrity, and reserves its full right to respond to any violations, as is its inherent sovereign right under international law. Qatar reiterates that it will take the measures required to defend its borders, airspace, maritime space and national security, in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Alya Ahmed Saif **Al-Thani**
Permanent Representative

Annex to the identical letters dated 9 March 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the Security Council

Iran
Airspace
Bahrain
Airspace
Qatar
United Arab Emirates
Airspace